



# **AYAKULIK RIVER**

## **KODIAK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**

The Ayakulik River is one of two rivers on Kodiak Island that offer remote king salmon fishing and it has become very popular. Over the past several years, staff from both the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (responsible for managing the sport fishery) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (responsible for managing Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge) have heard concerns from visitors about the quality of experience during the fishery. Visitors experienced concern about prime fishing holes being monopolized by anglers camping directly at the holes, people in large groups staying for extended periods of time, garbage being left or buried along the river, and general overcrowding.

In response to these concerns, both agencies began a public process to determine what type of fishing experience visitors wanted and how these preferences could be accommodated. Letters soliciting input were mailed to past visitors, public meetings were held, and the local fish and game advisory committee was consulted. The fish and game committee appointed a work group to study the issues and recommend ways to develop a management policy reflecting the interests of users.

For the 2003 fishery, the work group will review data collected during the season to determine what, if any, further management actions are needed. If a plan is developed that recommends managing certain aspects of visitor use, that plan may subsequently be proposed for regulation.

As you leave the fishery this year, you will be asked for your ideas on future management. What you and other visitors say will be summarized and presented to the work group. The work group will use the summary as the basis for any management actions they recommend.

To address the concerns voiced during the public process so far, the agencies and work group have decided to implement the following measures for the 2003 fishery:

- 1.) Voluntary camping closures around 7 popular fishing holes, including 2 areas frequented by brown bears. These holes are identified on the reverse side of this brochure. Area closures will be posted at the up- and down-stream limits. Please comply with these voluntary camping closures.
- 2.) During the peak of the king salmon fishery, June 1 – June 30, ADF&G and Kodiak Refuge recommend keeping your group size to 6 or fewer and your stay to 7 days or less.
- 3.) An exit survey will be conducted by ADF&G to help evaluate effectiveness of the voluntary camping restrictions and other aspects of this year's fishery, including whether or not you were satisfied with your experience in 2003; and, if you were not satisfied, what management measures you would recommend for future seasons.

The map on the reverse side of this page shows locations of the voluntary camping closure areas. Also shown is the ADF&G weir, which has a boat gate for passage of kayaks, rafts, etc. There is a marked 17b easement which allows camping, loading, and unloading (limited to 24 hours) near the mouth of the river. Aircraft pickups in the lagoon are made from this spot when conditions allow.

### **Visitor Guidelines:**

- 1.) Disturbance of archaeological and historical sites is prohibited (16 USC 470aa) and is punishable by fines up to \$100,000 and a year in jail.
- 2.) Monopolizing fishing areas is discouraged.
- 3.) Discharge of firearms is valid only for hunting or for defense of life or property. State of Alaska defense of life or property provisions (5AAC 92.410) must be followed when dealing with nuisance or threatening bears.
- 4.) All camping and fishing sites must be maintained in a neat and sanitary manner.

## **PACK IT IN – PACK IT OUT!**

- 1.) All items transported to the Ayakulik River must be removed when you leave, including equipment, food and all garbage (burying garbage is prohibited). Burning trash is allowed, but not recommended. The marine climate and lack of firewood make burning difficult. Remember to pick through the ashes for unburned metals, foil and plastic. Pack these out on the plane with you. Leaving your trash behind is considered littering and you will be cited.
- 2.) Store food and garbage in bear proof containers available from the Kodiak Refuge on a first come first serve basis.
- 3.) Dispose of fish offal in the river.
- 4.) Electric fences to protect food and personal property are helpful in deterring bears and foxes.
- 5.) Toilet paper is trash too. Bring baggies so you can pack it out or burn it.
- 6.) To avoid bear problems or unintentional waste, we recommend you not retain fish until the last day of your departure.

**For sportfishing and hunting regulations and the brochure "Bear Facts," please contact:**  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
211 Mission Road, Kodiak, Alaska, 99615  
907-486-1880

**For Refuge information, regulations and "Leave No Trace" brochures, please contact:**  
Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge  
1390 Buskin River Road, Kodiak, Alaska, 99615  
907-487-2600 (toll free, 888-408-3514)

